

SPACEMAKER

McClellan Air Force Base, Calif.

Nov. 4, 1999 Vol. 40, No. 45

AT A GLANCE

SMW membership meeting Saturday

The Society of Military Widows, Sacramento Chapter #5 meets Saturday in the Chapel Annex at 1 p.m. For more information, call Edna Brown at 422-0891.

Veteran's Day ceremony Nov. 11

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapters 1322 and A1322 will host a Veteran's Day Ceremony Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., in front of the McClellan Community Center. The guest speaker will be Col. Mike Iltis, 77th Support Group commander.

All are encouraged to attend. For more information, call retired Chief Master Sgt. George Moses at 643-4011.

Flu shots

Flu shots are available for retirees at the Base Theater Nov. 12 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chapel service set for Nov. 23

The chapel is hosting an Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Base Chapel. Everyone is invited. It's a time of song, reflection, free goodies and thanksgiving. For more information, call 643-6021.

HAWC mobile van visits housing

The McClellan Health and Wellness Center van will visit the Youth Center parking lot in Capehart Housing Nov. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff will offer cholesterol and blood pressure screening and provide Health Risk Appraisals. Certified volunteers also will check child carseats for proper installation. For information, call the HAWC at 643-4648.

CCAF Graduation

The Fall 1999 Community College of the Air Force graduation will be Nov. 10, at 10 a.m. in the Base Chapel. The Education Office will open at 1 p.m.

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Halloween fun around the base



Photo courtesy of Senior Airman Michael Fischer 938th Engineering and Installation Squadron costume contest winners were (top to bottom) Staff Sgt. Kevin Dunkle, Pam Roth, and Tyler Wilson.



U.S. Air Force photos by Robin Jackson

The Child Development Center began their Friday trick or treating throughout the base, here they take a break at Safe Federal Credit Union.



The evening continued with the last Trunk or Treat sponsored by the Community Support Center in the base Chapel parking lot. The community, infants to adults, received many treats and some tricks during the festivities.



McClellan salutes last finished bird

2nd Lt. Robert A. Firman
Chief of Internal Information

A KC-135 aerial refueler, fresh off the assembly line, took off Thursday from McClellan Air Force Base. Sporting new nose art in the form of the city shield of Sacramento and carrying more than 30 passengers, the aircraft left the base and flew into history.

As the last completed aircraft to leave McClellan, this plane was headed to Beale Air Force Base and its home with the 940th Air Refueling Wing.

Important for its historic significance, the flight marked the end of an era and drew a lot of attention, both on and off base. Sixteen employees of the Sacramento Air Logistics Center who had worked to refurbish this plane flew along as well as crews from three local TV stations and the Sacramento Bee newspaper.

According to Col. Ron McKim, Chief of the Aircraft Production Division, "this was a real tribute to those people who have worked on airplanes for so many years at McClellan to have the chance to fly on an aircraft which is the fruit of their labors. They have worked many hours and had this entire plane taken apart and they get to fly on it in its finished form."

During its 477-day stay at McClellan, this aircraft

underwent project directed maintenance.

"That means we go in and inspect the plane in detail from nose to tail and wingtip to wingtip," said McKim. "We focus primarily on the major structural components and make sure the aircraft is airworthy."

PDM is a thorough and meticulous process. Each KC-135 undergoing PDM requires more than 30,000 man-hours to complete.

For more than 60 years, McClellan has provided logistical support to dozens of aircraft and systems. During that time it has also enjoyed a close relationship with the community of Sacramento.

To honor that tie, the last KC-135 was officially dubbed the "Spirit of Sacramento" with the city shield emblazoned on the nose.

"That was actually an idea from the 940th Air Refueling Wing at Beale Air Force Base," said McKim. "They've been extremely happy with the products they've received from McClellan and wanted to find a fitting way to honor the hard work of the people of Sacramento to keep these aircraft flying."

While this was the last finished product to leave, the base still has four more KC-135's undergoing maintenance work. However, the work on these aircraft will not be finished at McClellan. They'll be flown to new locations to undergo the last of their refurbishing.

Action Line

643-3344, 77abw.actionline@mcclellan.af.mil

LIGHTS NEEDED FOR SAFETY

Q I had to drive my wife to the Family Support Center and I noticed the lack of light around the facility. It was so dark you couldn't see anything for about 5 to 10 yards. I am worried about my wife's and her coworkers' safety. Is there anything that can be done?

A We share your concern for the safety of patrons and staff of the Family Support Center. A lighting survey of the area was performed by civil engineering. As a result, several deficiencies were noted. The light at the entrance to the sidewalk is intermittent and the lens discolored limiting its performance. Additionally, two of the lights at the west side park area are out. An urgent work order has been submitted to repair the lights within five workdays. If any safety concerns are observed in the future, contact the civil engineer service center at 643-5624 for a timely response.

BIKE REGULATIONS SERVE A PURPOSE

Q As I was driving to work this morning, it is dark when I come in, I observed a guy on a bicycle illegally cross Roseville Road and proceed North on Watt Avenue into the Peacekeeper Gate lane.

He was actually behind me. He wore no reflective gear, nor did his bike have any lights. The only reason I saw him is because of the lights of other cars.

The gate guard waved him through behind me and he proceeded to follow me on Arnold Avenue. It's dark on most of the base, and this guy could get hurt or killed.

Not being that avid a bike rider; are there any rules about reflective gear and or lights for those who ride during hours of darkness? We need to get the word out. Ride to be seen.

A Thank you for your concern regarding this matter. You are correct. It is up to all bicycle operators to take responsibility for their own safety and ensure they can be seen. The California Vehicle Code mandates specific equipment to be present on bicycles.

The law, Section 21201 (d), states in part, "Every bicycle operating upon any highway during darkness shall be equipped with the following: 1. A lamp emitting a white light in the front, 2. A red reflector on the rear, 3. Reflectors on the pedals and, 4. A reflector on each side of the bicycle mounted forward of the mid-way point."

Additionally, gate sentries will be instructed to vigorously enforce this provision.



Col. Charlie Cotter
77th Air Base Wing commander

Hi. I'm Col. Charlie Cotter and I am thrilled to have the honor of commanding the 77th ABW. I value the opportunity to serve you, members of the McClellan community. The Action Line is your direct link to focus my attention on something you feel I should know. It may be used to highlight an area where you have received exceptional service. The Action Line is also your means to tell me about a challenge or issue that you have not been able to resolve. Certainly, it is

best to first try to resolve the issue with the responsible agency, since ultimately that is where the issue will get fixed. Another means to address a problem is through your chain of command. But, if neither of these approaches resolves the issue to your satisfaction, let me know in your Action Line call what the challenge is and how you think it could be resolved to your satisfaction. I look forward to serving all members of the McClellan community.

Action Line

643-3344
Action Line
77 ABW/CC
5241 Arnold Ave.
McClellan AFB, CA
95652-1086

77abw.actionline@mcclellan.af.mil

Base Phone Numbers

AAFES.....	920-0537
Civilian Pay.....	643-6727
Civil Engineering.....	643-5624
Civilian Personnel.....	643-5838
Commissary.....	643-4954
Base Police.....	643-6161
Dining Hall.....	643-5092
Family Support.....	643-1106
Focus Center #1.....	643-5661
Fraud, Waste & Abuse.....	643-6000
Housing.....	643-6221
Legal.....	643-3150
Lodging.....	643-6223
Medical Appointments.....	643-8400
After Hours.....	643-7212
TRICARE Service Center.(800) 242-6788	
Military Pay.....	643-6965
Military Personnel.....	643-1094
Public Affairs.....	643-6127
Retiree Activities.....	643-2207
Security Forces.....	643-6160
Services.....	643-6660
Military Equal Opportunity.....	643-3322
Base Fuel.....	643-5213
Uniform Questions.....	643-4051

What Is CFC?

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the annual fund-raising drive conducted by Federal employees in the workplace each fall. Those dry words we've all heard before. They make CFC just another holiday or special event but CFC isn't just another anything. It is a dynamic evolving changing campaign that each year serves more people better than before. Donors have the assurance their dollars are being sent to support charities and not consumed in fund-raising activities. CFC overhead costs in 1998 were only 7% nationwide. There are no candy bars to buy no popcorn or even cookies. CFC provides us a one stop reliable way to support our favorite charities. Donors may make cash or check contributions or enjoy the convenience of payroll deductions. This year McClellan's people have a chance once more to help people both here in our neighborhood and around the globe through their Combined Federal Campaign. The "Tradition of Caring" continues.

CFC is You

How does CFC help people? Twenty dollars a month can help provide a safe



place for a child to study and play after school away from the dangers of the street. Four dollars a month provides a day camp experience for a Cub Scout. Two weeks of day camp for a child, ages 6-13, is \$8.33 per month. Ten dollars a month can provide a lightweight wheelchair for a person who is disabled. There are many other things your money can do. These are just dollars and things. CFC is more than that. CFC is you, your co-workers and those who are helped. Look around you today in the office, in the supermarket, and at the soccer game. One in every three people you see has been touched by a CFC charity. If you can please help us, help yourself and help others through your Combined Federal Campaign. It truly has been a "Tradition of Caring" at McClellan.

Air Force Vision

"Air Force people building the world's most respected air and space force ... global power and reach for America"

Air Force Materiel Command Vision

"Quality Systems for America's Air Force"

Sacramento Air Logistics Center Vision

"Completing the mission of McClellan AFB with professionalism and honor"

SPACEMAKER

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SPACEMAKER

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<http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/PA/Spacemaker.html>

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Perspectives '99 focuses on applying lessons learned to the future



FYIG

From Your Inspector General

Col. Michael F. Turner
Inspector General

For the fifth consecutive year, the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce brought in prominent speakers to address local government and business leaders at Perspectives '99.

Margaret Thatcher, Bob Dole, Ann Richards, William Bennett, and Beck Weathers addressed an audience of over 3,000 including attendees from McClellan Air Force Base.

All of them presented their ideas on how to improve our national and individual lives as we leave the 20th century and embark on a new era. The most stirring and inspiring presentation was by Beck Weathers, who related the miracle of his survival on Mt. Everest in 1996.

In addition, news analyst, William Kristol, and Chris Matthews, Washington bureau chief for *The San Francisco Examiner* held a political debate. Matthews indicated the political parties are equally powerful and predicted the next Presidential election will go to the wire. Matthews was concerned about excessive overseas deployments of the military, while Kristol said he is more interventionist.

Ann Richards, former governor of Texas, said we have a hard time learning from the past. She observed that history never seems to stop repeating itself as "fools rush in where fools have been before." She quoted a news report expounding problems of US troops involved overseas, the need to expand business in Asia, the large number of immigrants in the large cities, and the threat of big money and foreign investments destroying America. Sound familiar? The quote, however, was not from 1999 but from an 1899 newspaper. The problems then were similar to problems we face a century later, but we have a vastly different country.

Richards pointed out at the turn of this century, changes took place slowly, but it's not like that anymore. Change has accelerated so we are going somewhere fast. Governor Richards noted three-fourths of the ads in a recent *New York Times* were computer and Internet related. Finding ourselves in the midst of the Information Age, we have changed from a national to an international economy in which jobs are ever changing.

Our times require constant training and education, and our kids can expect to change careers as many as five times. Richards noted that despite our prosperity, a lot of people are scared about adjusting as new technology has transformed our lives.

A former school teacher, Richards observed that people want the schools to "do it all," but will not ante up to pay for it." She called for higher pay and better treatment for teachers. She said we need the type of enlightened leadership Henry Ford showed when he paid his workers \$5 a day so they could afford to buy the cars they made themselves. Richards concluded Americans should not whine that the government and big business are the enemy or that tax cuts at any cost are necessary.

William Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education and Director for National Drug Policy, is author of *The Book of Virtues* and has a new book coming out on education entitled, *The Educated Child*. Bennett said he believes as we enter the new century, there is hardly anything we can't do unless we don't focus and work on it, such as winning the war on drugs.

Like Richards, he believes we should pay our

teachers more money. However, he believes the \$600 billion spent on education each year could yield a better result. He noted children in the lower grades compete in the top third of students internationally, but by the time they reach 8th grade, they are only average, and by the 12th grade they are below average. So put more emphasis on improving the higher grades and reward *good* teachers.

Bennett believes government leaders should ask themselves, "What are you going to do to lift the vision of people?" He believes America should lift a banner and be a "city on the hill" for the rest of the world. Government can help do this, he observed, but the first instinct of every citizen should be, "What can I do for myself."

Bennett believes there is nothing quite like the moral leadership of example. When the iron curtain fell, leaders like Lech Walesa of Poland came to visit Washington, and they didn't ask for a handout, but asked U.S. leaders to teach them how to lead a democracy.

Bennett referred to Gen. Colin Powell as one who had huge support for President, not because of his stand on issues, which were not evident anyway, but because of his example. One woman told him she could support Powell because she could say to her children, "See that man, now that's a man. He served his country; he honors his wife and children. Be *like* that man."

A man who faced death on Mt. Everest and lived to tell about it, Beck Weathers, the amateur climber incredibly survived Mt. Everest in the Spring 1996 expedition in which eight climbers perished including three professional guides. Speaking without notes, Dr. Weathers, a gifted surgeon, who lost his right hand to frostbite, and part of his left hand as well, moved the audience through an emotional and powerful account of his ordeal on the mountain.

Beck Weathers and the other climbers found themselves above the 26,000 foot high camp in what is known as the death zone with inadequate time to get down the mountain. One of the climbers who was obsessed with going to the summit got Weathers to agree to wait for him. That climber never returned but caused Weathers to start down late with two others. A terrible storm hit the mountain with heavy winds and temperatures hitting -50 Fahrenheit. From then on it was a dramatic fight for survival.

Weathers related how under the conditions he faced, the body would not carry him anymore, but the mind had to take over. Two rules of the mountain were 1) you cannot carry someone down without losing your own life and 2) if you stop and fall asleep, your core temperature will plunge until your heart stops. Thus appearing doomed when found by others, Beck Weathers was not able to proceed and he was left for dead in an apparent sleep.

Then a miracle occurred 22 hours into the storm, Weathers opened his eyes, threw down his pack and without fear but with a strong feeling to see his family, he started to descend the mountain. Though nearly blinded by the sun, he found the tents below. Unable to descend further, he heard rumor of a helicopter coming. Helicopters don't fly to upper Mt. Everest because the air is too thin. But a Nepalese Lt. Col. risked his life to go to the base camp. Because he couldn't live knowing someone else's life was lost for his, Weathers insisted the pilot take a fellow climber instead. As the helicopter left, his heart dropped.

Another miracle occurred when the helicopter returned. Weathers said he learned about his common bond with humanity. A pilot of another culture, language and place put his life on the line and rescued him. "We are all of the same clay and if I can survive, so can you," said Weathers.

He reminded us we must all have an anchor—

family, friends, or God; miracles happen every day. His miracle was when he opened his eyes; we all do that every day. Weathers taught us we need to see the wonder in life. He traveled the world looking for what was important and found it was in his own back yard with his own family.

Bob Dole, who spent 35 ½ years in Congress before he ran for President, talked about heroes and leadership in America. Like Beck Weathers, Dole, a military veteran of WW II, was left for dead at the age of 20, but recovered and was successful even though he couldn't use his arms for a few years. He said Franklin D. Roosevelt was one of his heroes because he overcame his disability.

What Dole has learned from successful leaders is they have a positive, upbeat mental attitude, integrity, and responsibility with accountability. He related how Eisenhower prayerfully made his decision to invade Normandy in uncertain weather on June 6, 1944, but he was prepared to take responsibility if the landings failed.

Dole reminded his audience that being first all the time is impossible. If you do your best, you are not a failure if you do not finish first. He never met anybody who didn't have some kind of a failure in life. The key is to make a positive difference.

He said he believes we have the leadership in both political parties to take us into the next century. Dole believes we need to separate celebrities from heroes. Celebrities are stars and hit home runs; heroes risk their lives and demonstrate commitment and values.

As keynote speaker, Lady Margaret Thatcher described the remarkable advances of the 20th Century, her experiences as Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the need for a strong moral foundation for the future. She paid tribute to America for our great application of the principles of liberty and successful government.

Lady Thatcher, who has a chemistry degree, asked us to consider the progress made since the beginning of this century. So many things we take for granted mean people are living longer, healthier lives. She said government must allow folks to reap the benefits of prosperity without taxing it all away, noting how Britain flourished when they brought taxation down from the exorbitantly high rates they had, some as high as 98 percent! She exclaimed her country had taught us, and now America is teaching Britain what they ought not to have forgotten.

She described the transition of Russia after Gorbachev adopted his openness policy of "glasnost and perestroika." With more freedoms, the Soviet Union broke apart from the iron hand of communism. Now, Russia faces new challenges of learning how to combine liberty with responsibility, making decisions, and avoiding corruption. If liberty is to work, it is to have a rule of law, a sense of equity and fairness, open courts, honesty and integrity. Otherwise, corruption takes over and fills the void.

According to Thatcher, the United States had a great moral purpose in its founding and must continue as such to build in the future. She quoted the second U. S. President John Adams, "Our country was founded for a moral and religious people..." Lady Thatcher's bottom line was that liberty cannot long survive unless founded on a moral foundation.

We can and should learn from our own and others' experiences. All of the speakers gave insights on how to apply lessons learned during the previous century as we approach the year 2000. Our country requires dedicated men and women giving their best efforts to preserve our liberty while adjusting to the accelerating changes the next century will bring. Each of us can learn patience and appreciation for whatever we have or can do by remembering the incredible story of Dr. Weathers' survival on Mt. Everest.

DOD panel targets junior enlisted money woes

By Linda D. Kozaryn

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — When \$20 is all you've got left after expenses at the end of the month, life is tough. Ask any E-3 with a spouse and a couple of toddlers.

For many of the military's 613,000 E-1 to E-4 junior enlisted service members — especially the 172,000 who are married — making ends meet is a penny-pinching undertaking. Housing and moving costs, car payments, auto insurance and repair bills, plus child care fees leave many young military families financially strapped.

"We have people who are falling through the cracks," said the Defense Department's Victor Vasquez. "We'd like to see what we can do to increase the discretionary income that families have." The new deputy assistant defense secretary for personnel support, families and education has proposed a variety of approaches to help fill the gap for the military's young families.

Junior enlisted paychecks only stretch so far. When the largest pay raise since 1981 goes into effect Jan. 1, an E-1 fresh from basic training will earn \$930.30 a month and an E-4 with two years' service will earn \$1,312.80.

Pay table reforms scheduled for July will include further increases of up to 5.5 percent to 75 percent of the military's enlisted members and 53 percent of the officers. These will primarily affect mid-level career service members, but certain E-3s and E-4s will also see pay jumps.

Vasquez and military and civilian quality of life advocates met here in early October to discuss ways to ease financial pressures on junior enlisted service members. Their Junior Enlisted Financial Plan Meeting was the first step in a process that

"We have people who are falling through the cracks. We'd like to see what we can do to increase the discretionary income that families have."

-- Victor Vasquez, Defense Department

may ultimately involve several other federal agencies and organizations.

Starting this fall, Vasquez added, DOD officials plan to hold regional forums throughout the country to discuss junior enlisted service members' financial issues with installation commanders and other local military and civilian officials.

Tony Jurney, deputy director of the Pentagon's Quality of Life Office, said E-1s to E-4s make up about 55 percent of the enlisted force. In a 1997 RAND study, he said, about half the junior enlisted surveyed said they have occasional financial difficulties. Some said bill collectors have pressured them, others have pawned valuables, and still others said they have fallen behind in their rent or mortgage.

A number of factors contribute to these financial troubles, Jurney noted. Junior enlisted service members are young, aged 17 to 26.

They tend to marry earlier and have children earlier than civilian counterparts. They tend to be inexperienced about financial matters and therefore fall easy prey to predatory businesses. Frequent deployments, separation from extended families and frequent moves drain the resources of all military families, but especially junior ones, Jurney said. Junior enlisted generally move three times in the first 18 months of service. Moreover, when they move, they also lose spouse employment.

The fiscal 2000 Authorization Act approved the payment of temporary living expenses to enlisted service members moving to their first duty

station. Previously, they were not entitled to such payments.

"An E-1 to E-4 would typically spend almost \$1,000 to move and would only be authorized a reimbursement of \$250 to \$300," Jurney continued. "They had to pay the rest out of their own pockets or go into debt."

The military offers a variety of family support programs including child development, youth and family centers, as well as spouse employment and family advocacy programs, but officials say even more needs to be done. Jurney appealed to the interagency and private industry panel members for input.

"We've identified areas we think we can change, with your help, that would assist service members and provide them with more discretionary income," he told the panelists. These areas include reducing the cost of financing, leasing and insuring automobiles; reducing out-of-pocket moving costs; improving financial training for service members and their spouses; and exploring the concept of housing cooperatives as a way to provide affordable housing.

"Since a second income is almost essential in any household, we want to improve spouse employment opportunities," Jurney said. Initiatives include training with private industry and the development of more educational opportunities.

Another initiative is the Portable Entrepreneur Program for spouses interested in self-employment. DOD Office of Family Policy and Small Business Association officials started

pilot demonstrations in San Diego and in Norfolk, Va., two years ago and call them overwhelming successes.

DOD's quality of life advocates also want to put a spotlight on the unsavory off-base business practices. Some service members fall into debt dealing with high-interest check-cashing firms. Retired Navy Adm. Jerry Johnson of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society said he knew of cases where service members would write a \$460 check to get \$400 cash.

He said service members also pay astronomical interest on title loans and told of an E-6 who fell behind one month on his mortgage and took out a \$1,700 title loan against a \$6,000 car. That loan ended up costing \$7,480 in interest over 20 months, Johnson said.

The military is working with the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Protection Bureau to identify fraudulent business practices. Army and the Marine Corps law enforcement authorities are already online with Consumer Sentinel, the bureau's secure Web site listing complaints against businesses. The bureau is working to bring the Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard into the fold.

The Consumer Protection Bureau has a toll free hot line — 877-FTC HELP — for people to report fraud or other unsavory business practices. An Internet complaint form is also available at <http://www.ftc.gov>.

Federal participants at the Junior Enlisted Financial Plan meeting hailed from the Small Business Administration, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Protection Office, the Agriculture and Treasury departments. Civilian organizations represented included the Red Cross, YMCA, military associations and relief agencies, credit unions and the banking and insurance industries.

AF supports Native American Small Bus. Initiative

By Staff Sgt. Russell Petcoff
341st Space Wing Public Affairs

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont. (AFPN) — Seventy-four Native American tribal leaders from throughout Montana and Wyoming met with Air Force officials Oct. 21 to discuss the success of the year-old Native American Small Business Initiative.

The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the initiative the Air Force launched in October 1998 to bring in \$50 million in revenue to Native American small businesses in the two states, according to Anthony DeLuca, director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. The office is part of the secretary of the Air Force's staff in Washington, D.C.

The program has been so successful

DeLuca met with tribal leaders from North and South Dakota and Nebraska the following week to expand the program to Northern Plains tribes. The program is expanding as a direct result of President Clinton's visit to the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota. The expansion was White House-directed.

DeLuca said the initiative helps build a relationship of trust, integrity and commitment between Native Americans and the Air Force, a relationship he said Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters is proud of.

It also helps keep lines of communications open, provides training and technical assistance, and collaboration between Native American businesses and the Air Force.

An example of an initiative success is S&K Electronics of Ronan, Mont.

It has received \$24 million for digitization of F-15 technical manuals.

"It's our largest Air Force contract," said Larry Hall, president and general manager of S&K. Hall termed the initiative "a great opportunity for Montana."

Another aspect of the initiative is the Air Force Mentor-Protégé Program. Here, a large company reaches out to a small Native American firm, according to DeLuca.

An example is the mentoring between Tetra Tech and Flying Eagle.

Tetra Tech is a full-services engineering firm that provides consulting services to government and private industries.

Flying Eagle of Helena is a 100 percent Native American-owned small business that specializes in environmental remediation, mine reclamation, heavy construction and construction management. It has performed work for various federal and state agencies, including Malmstrom.

Thrift Savings Plan open season held this month

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season is being held from Nov. 15 through Jan. 31, 2000. Open Season allows eligible employees to enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan or change contributions to their accounts. Enrollments/changes will be accepted beginning Nov. 15 and will become effective on Jan. 2, 2000, if submitted by that date. Applications submitted after that date will become effective during the following pay period.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a tax-deferred retirement savings plan, open to both Federal Employees Retirement System and Civil Service Retirement System employees. FERS employees may contribute up to 10 percent of their basic pay each pay period, with the government matching up

to five percent. CSRS employees may contribute up to five percent of their basic pay, with no government matching contributions. No taxes are paid on TSP contributions until funds are withdrawn after separation from federal service.

Both FERS and CSRS employees have a present choice of three investment funds:

G Fund - Government securities investment fund invested in short-term U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to the TSP.

C Fund - Common stock index investment fund consisting of the common stocks of all the companies represented in the Standard

and Poor's 500 stock index.

F Fund - Fixed income index investment fund invested in a bond index fund tracking the Shearson Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index.

To view rates of return, obtain the most current TSP information, and calculate anticipated TSP earnings, employees may visit the TSP website at www.tsp.gov. Information and forms are available in Civilian Personnel, Bldg. 10, between 12 and 3 p.m. daily. If you have any questions regarding the Thrift Savings Plan, please call the Benefits Section at 643-5702 during open hours.

Federal Employees Group Life Insurance notice

A Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Open Season was held from April 24 to June 30, 1999, with the changes becoming effective April 23, 2000 for employees in a pay and duty status on that date.

If you enrolled in the FEGLI Family Option, Option C, during the Open Season or after it because you experienced a change in family status between Oct. 30, 1998 and April 23, 1999, you may be eligible to increase your Option C coverage up to a maximum of five times and

make that coverage retroactive to April 25, 1999.

A change in family status is defined as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, or addition of a child. Employees making this retroactive election must provide proof of the event qualifying as a change in family status and must pay back premiums to April 25, 1999. If you have questions regarding the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance, you may call the Benefits Section at 643-5702 from noon to 3 p.m. daily.

Employment Opportunities at Tobyhanna Army Depot

Tobyhanna Army Depot has announced the third opportunity for SM-ALC employees to volunteer for the TYAD Operating Location.

TYAD is seeking volunteers who are fully qualified in the Ground Communications-Electronics and Electro-

Optics/Night Vision workloads, which will transfer to TYAD during fiscal year 2000. Copies of the announcement, with application procedures, may be picked up in the FOCUS Center, Bldg. 9 and are posted on Official Bulletin Boards.

Applications must be received at TYAD no later than Nov. 30.

Additional information may also be obtained from Ms. Diane Grebb, Personnel Staffing Specialist, TYAD, at DSN 795-7294 or commercial (717) 895-7294.

NEWSBRIEFS

Holiday hours

Listed below are the hours of operation for McClellan Exchange facilities for Veterans Day, Nov.11:

Main Store	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Service Station	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shoppette	8 a.m to 8 p.m.
Class Six	12 p.m. 5 p.m.
Concessions	9 a.m. to 4 p. m.
Burger King	8:30a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Toyland	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Barber Shop	Closed
Beauty Shop	Closed
MCSS	Closed
Anthony's Pizza	Closed
Robin Hood	Closed
Frank's Frank	Closed
Theater	Closed

NCOA meets

The Central Valley Chapter and *Spirit of Sacramento* Auxiliary Chapter of the Noncommissioned Officers Association will conduct their monthly combined general membership meeting Wednesday, at 3:30 p.m. at Flashback. NCOA will finalize details for the Thanksgiving turkey bowl, holiday gift wrapping, and Breakfast with Santa. For additional information, call Chief Master Sgt. Jim Sullivan at 643-6808 or email 'james.sullivan@mcclellan.af.mil'.

Officers' wives social

The November get-together for officers' spouses, active duty and retired, will be Tuesday, Nov. 9, at The Olive Garden restaurant on Sunrise Blvd. Social will be at 11 a.m. with lunch at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Evie Denninger at 987-0274, or Colleen Wegner at 338-5574 by Friday.

Dorm feast

The Company Grade Officers Council is sponsoring a Breakfast Feast FREE for all dorm residents Wednesday from 6:30-8 a.m. at the 77th Mission Support Squadron Dorm in Bldg. 945. Volunteers will serve pancakes, waffles, eggs, potatoes, bacon and more. For more information or to volunteer contact Capt. Soleiman Rahel at 643-2203.

Volunteer opportunity

Volunteers are needed to support this year's Special Olympics Northern California Sports Fall Classic. The competition will be held at six different sites around Sacramento Nov 19-21. Volunteers will support the "G-Team" and will perform a variety of tasks. There is also a need for Emergency Medical Technician qualified personnel. Permissive temporary duty is authorized for military members. For additional information, contact Chief Master Sgt. James Sullivan at 643-6808, or Staff Sgt. Bill Brokop at 643-3247.



U.S. Air Force photos by Robin Jackson

Riot control

The 77th Security Forces Squadron participates in a riot control exercise Oct. 28 on perimeter road. Each member of the squadron took part in a full day's training in riot control before the actual exercise. Each member had 3 to 4 hours of classroom training and then 3 to 4 hours of actual hands on practice. Throughout the security forces career field riot control is part of the biennial training.

Correction: The effective date for the year 2000 reduction in force was listed in an article in the Oct. 15 Spacemaker as Oct. 6, 2000. The actual effective date of the fiscal year 2000 RIF is Sept. 28.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME!

Staff Sgt. Jim Morrison

77th Security Forces Squadron Crime Prevention/Resource Protection Specialist

With the base closing we are all unfortunately subject to theft or unwanted crimes of opportunity. These crimes will be either at home or at the “office”. What can we do to prevent this from happening?



The National Neighborhood Watch program is here to protect us. What is the best crime prevention device ever invented? A good Neighbor!! Crime is on the increase.

What, as citizens, can we do to prevent these crimes.

We hear about it on the news, read about it in the newspapers, and sometimes even see it on our streets. There is something we can do. Neighbors in communities across the country are joining together to discourage local crime. By cooperating with each other and local law enforcement agencies, people can help fight crime in their community the most effective way - before it be-

gins and as it happens. We call this program “Neighborhood Watch.”

The local Neighborhood Watch program is designed to encourage McClellan housing and Sacramento County residents to assist one another in their own protection. The key to the program is cooperation among neighbors, Security Forces, and the Sheriff’s Department. If we know what to look for and what to do about it, we are our own best defense against crime. Neighborhood Watch is when neighbors look out for each other. It is a self-help crime prevention program that can successfully reduce the incidence not only of burglary, but of other crimes as well.

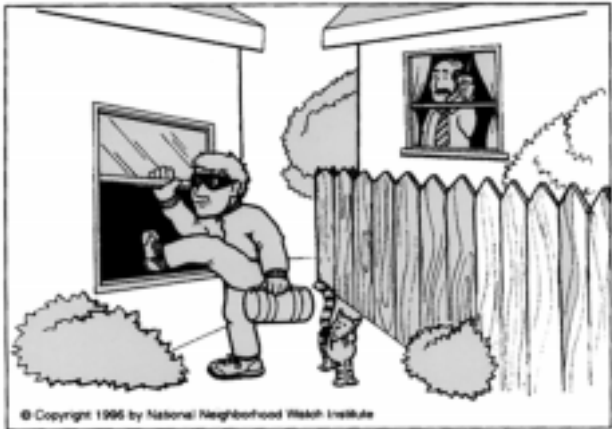
The active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime involves a couple of areas.

- ✓ Neighbors getting to know each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance;
- ✓ Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their own neighborhoods;
- ✓ Implementation of crime prevention techniques such as operation identification and the Neighborhood Watch program;

✓ For those who rent or own their own home, home security systems are recommended.

REMEMBER: The Security Forces or Sheriff’s Department cannot be everywhere at once, but the Neighborhood Watch network can. You can be your own best defense in the fight against crime!

Should anyone have any questions, Staff Sgt. Jim Morrison is the point of contact for this program at 643-1073. Look for more information to be published through the Spacemaker and Town Hall meetings.



FOCUS Center Jobs

This section contains some of the job announcements available at the McClellan Air Force Base FOCUS Center. For additional information, contact FOCUS Center #1 at 643-5661. FOCUS #1 is open until 7 p.m Thursdays.

Position: Accountant, GS-510-11/12
Annc#: SNR-9921
Close: Nov. 12
Location: Folsom, CA
Agency: Western Area Power Administration
POC: Phone -- (916) 353-4566
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Medical Instrument Technician, GS-649-09
Annc#: 99-108MC
Close: Nov. 9
Location: Sacramento, CA
Agency: Veterans Administration
POC: Barbara Nelson (925) 372-2120
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Safety & Occupational Health Mgr, GS-018-12/13
Annc#: YOSE-99-69
Close: Nov. 10
Location: Yosemite National Park
Agency: National Park Service
POC: Lynette Mangus (209) 379-1805
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Employee Relations Specialist, GS-230-11/12
Annc#: R5-442-99G
Close: Nov. 29
Location: Vallejo, CA
Agency: Forest Service
POC: Dawn Hayhurst (510) 559-6364
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FO-

CUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Personnel Assistant, GS-203-06/07
Annc#: BOR-MP-99-199
Close: Friday
Location: Sacramento, CA
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation
POC: Inga Hall (916) 978-5471
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Budget Analyst, GS-560-11
Annc#: R503-322-99G
Close: Nov. 29
Location: Nevada City, CA
Agency: Forest Service
POC: John Carr (530) 621-5277
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Personnel Actions Clerk (Office Automation), GS-203-05/06
Annc#: CA-99-108
Close: Friday
Location: Sacramento, CA
Agency: Bureau of Land Management
POC: Phone -- (916) 978-4460
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Classification Specialist, GS-221-13
Annc#: R5-449-99
Close: Nov. 24
Location: Vallejo, Ca
Agency: Forest Service
POC: Jennifer Jones (510) 559-6356
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement

and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Program Analyst, GS-343-12
Annc#: 99-142-MS
Close: Nov. 12
Location: Martinez, Ca
Agency: Veterans Health Administration
POC: Barbara Nelson (925) 372-2120
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Secretary (Office Automation), GS-318-06
Annc#: BOR-MP-99-200 (DEU)
Close: Nov. 9
Location: Sacramento, CA
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation
POC: Inga Hall (916) 978-5471
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Position: Program Analyst, GS-343-12
Annc#: R5-9-298-99
Close: Nov. 24
Location: Vallejo, CA
Agency: Forest Service
POC: Jennifer Jones (510) 559-6356
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for KSA's and/or additional information.

Non-Federal

Position: Information Systems Technician
Salary: \$2,040 - \$2,209 per month
Close: Friday
Location: Sacramento, CA
Agency: State of California
POC: Phone -- (916) 324-5039
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the an-

nouncement and contact the agency for additional information.

Position: Equipment Mechanic I
Salary: \$2,070 - \$2,516 per month
Close: Tuesday
Location: Nevada County
Agency: County of Nevada
POC: Phone -- (530) 265-1225 option 1
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for additional information.

Position: Hazardous Materials/ Recycling Specialist
Salary: \$3,413 - \$4,148 per month
Close: Nov. 23
Location: Placerville, CA
Agency: El Dorado County
POC: Phone -- (530) 621-5565
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for additional information.

Position: Office Assistant II (2 Vacancies)
Salary: \$1,584 - \$1,926 per month
Close: Nov. 5
Location: Placerville, CA
Agency: El Dorado County
POC: Phone -- (530) 521-5565
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for additional information.

Position: Greenskeeper
Salary: \$1,823 - \$2,828 per month
Close: 19 Nov 99
Location: Sacramento
Agency: City of Sacramento
POC: (916) 264-8568
Remarks: Copies of the vacancy announcement are available in the FOCUS Center. Review the announcement and contact the agency for additional information.

HEALTH & RECREATION



Movies

Movies start at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, in Bldg. 1417. Movies are subject to change.

Outside Providence - Friday

Starring: Alec Baldwin, George Wendt and Sara Gilbert

OUTSIDE PROVIDENCE is the hilarious yet startlingly poignant story of a young man's coming of age. In the blue-collar town of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Timothy Dunphy has a broken home, a three-legged dog and a full-blown attraction to trouble. (*Rated R - pervasive teen drug use and strong language including sexual references.*)

Stigmata - Saturday

Starring: Patricia Arquette, Gabriel Byrne, Jonathan Pryce, Nia Long and Rade Serbedgia

When a young woman becomes the focus of brutal assaults by an unseen attacker, the spiritual implications of the incidents drive a Vatican official to send a priest to investigate. Upon witnessing her affliction firsthand, the priest becomes more concerned with saving her life than debunking her claims. (*Rated R - for intense violent sequences, language and some sexuality.*)

Mumford - Sunday

Starring: Jane Adams, Ted Dason, Hope Davis, Loren Dean and Jason Lee

"Mumford" tells the story of a psychologist who hangs out his shingle in a small town and begins dispensing no-nonsense advice to an array of quirky locals. (*Rated R - for sex-related images, language and drug content.*)

Youth Center

■ **Today:** Open recreation, 2-7 p.m.; open gym, 2-3 p.m. and 4:15-7 p.m.; snack bar, 2-6 p.m.; advanced gymnastics, 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Moms, Pops, Tots play group, 10-11 a.m.; TaeBo aerobics, 7-8 p.m., age 11 and up, free.

■ **Friday:** Open recreation, gym, snack bar, 2-6 p.m.; Skate Night, ages 5-8, 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$2 members, \$4 nonmembers.

■ **Saturday:** Open recreation, snack bar and gym, noon-5 p.m.; Teen Night at Flashbacks, ages 13-18, 6:30-11 p.m., transportation provided with permission slips.

■ **Sunday:** Closed

■ **Monday:** Open recreation and open gym, 2-7 p.m.; open snack bar, 2-6 p.m.

■ **Tuesday:** Open recreation, 2-7 p.m.; open gym, 4:15-7 p.m.; snack bar, 2-6 p.m.; beginning gymnastics, 3:15-4:15 p.m.

■ **Wednesday:** Open recreation, open gym, 2-7 p.m.; open snack bar, 2-6 p.m.; 70s Retro Dance, ages 12-16, 7-10 p.m., \$2 members, \$4 nonmembers.

Pharmacy closure near, patients urged to prepare

McClellan's pharmacy will stop all prescription services Sept. 29, 2000.

As the pharmacy nears its closure, the last day for requesting a prescription refill at McClellan will be Sept. 18, 2000.

McClellan's customers will, however, have options available for filling new prescriptions or refills at any Tricare Region 10 pharmacy.

Contact the pharmacies listed below to find out their policies, procedures, and operating hours.

• **Travis AFB:** General Information: (707) 423-7300; Pharmacy Information: (707) 423-7121; internet: www.travis.af.mil

• **Beale AFB:** (530) 634-2337; internet: www.beale.af.mil

• **Lemoore:** (209) 998-4445; internet: www.lenhfsa.med.navy.mil/pharmacy

• **Monterey:** (831) 242-5382

• **Concord:** (925) 246-2936

• **Alameda:** (510) 437-3602

Private health insurance is another option for covering prescription service. Under normal circumstances patients over 65 years of age are not authorized to use the Tricare network or the National Mail Order Pharmacy.

Patients would normally have to obtain supplemental health care insurance to avoid paying out of pocket for prescriptions.

However, Base Realignment and Closure eligibility overrides this restriction allowing those over 65 to use

either the network or NMOP for pharmacy service.

BRAC eligibility is a designation which is automatically established once McClellan is coded as a BRAC site in the DEERS computer, which should occur in July. Those who are Medicare eligible within the 40-mile catchment area around McClellan

BRAC eligible to be able to use this option.

The TRICARE network consists of local pharmacies such as Longs Drug, Rite-Aid, Walgreen's, Wal-Mart, Raley's, etc., where a co-pay is required. If you are over 65 and are BRAC eligible the co-pay will be 20 percent of the cost of the medication for a 30-day supply. TRICARE Prime patients under 65 pay a \$9.00 co-pay for the same 30-day supply. Prescriptions will need to be rewritten by your provider to use this option.

The final option for prescription service is the National Mail Order Pharmacy. Anyone under 65 may use this program. Those over 65 must also be BRAC-eligible to use this option. The co-pay is \$8.00 for a 90-day supply of non-controlled medications and/or a 30-day supply of controlled medication. Prescriptions will need to be rewritten by a provider to use this option.

As an added convenience providers can obtain an EasyRx prescription form and fax your prescription by calling 1-800-327-9791. NMOP delivers all prescriptions and refills via US mail. Refills may be requested by mail, toll free phone call, or via the Internet at www.merck-medco.com.

If you have other Health Insurance that includes a pharmacy benefit, you can not participate in this program. For information on NMOP call 1-800-903-4680.

(Courtesy, 77th Medical Group)



will be able to use the TRICARE network or NMOP to have their prescriptions filled.

BRAC Medicare-eligibles who live outside the BRAC 40-mile limit can still qualify if they relied on McClellan for prescription service within one calendar year of the base's closure. Call DEERS at 1-800-334-4162 (California only) to establish eligibility through "declaration of reliance."

A third option is the TRICARE network. Eligible beneficiaries under the age of 65 are able to use a TRICARE network pharmacy. Those over 65 must be coded as

Massage therapy helps reduce physical ailments

By Staff Sgt. Nicole Gross
Physical Therapy

When you think of the word "massage," what comes to mind? Do you think of stress relief, relaxation, or a means of warming up tight muscles? If you answered yes to any of the above possibilities, you are correct. Massage is very beneficial to the bodily processes.

The following will tell you what massage is and the benefits of and techniques for massage.

Massage, by definition, consists of moving soft tissue and applying pressure to the body—the skin, muscles, tendons, and ligaments. It promotes blood and lymph flow, and reduces heart rate, blood pressure, and muscle tension. It also improves range of motion and helps relieve pain.

Because of its soothing and calming effect, massage can provide relief from stress, anxiety, and depression, as well as back pain, headaches, and muscle soreness.

Many participants of sports may also benefit from massage treatment because it warms muscles before performing an activity, loosens cramped muscles, and reduces waste products that cause soreness.

Massage therapy can be used for sprains or strains because it increases circulation to the area, which improves recovery.

In doing all of these things, massage is a very beneficial way to enhance other medical treatments for an ailment or injury because ultimately it boosts the body's own processes.

The following are some examples of massage techniques:

■ **Effleurage:** Slow, rhythmic strokes given in the direction of blood flow toward the heart, with gradual increase of pressure throughout the massage—produces calming effect on body.

■ **Petrissage:** Kneading, pressing, and rolling muscle groups—increases blood flow to area.

■ **Trigger Point Therapy:** Fin-

ger pressure directly to painful areas in a muscle with the intention of loosening up the tight areas.

■ **Friction:** Steady pressure or tight circular motion across muscle fibers without moving across the skin—loosens tight muscles and scars.

Any massage should include some form of kneading, pressing, or stroking with varying pressure and movement, resulting in beneficial effects for the patient.

However, massage should never be performed on someone with circulatory conditions, bruises, inflamed or infected areas, or at recent fracture sites.

Massage therapy helps reduce many physical ailments, as well as environmental effects, such as stress and anxiety.

It helps warm up and loosen muscle groups, and it ultimately improves all of the bodily processes.

Any questions regarding massage or other treatments may be referred to 643-8270.

Civilian Personnel downsizing timeline

Civilian Personnel plays a vital role in the downsizing of the civilian workforce. In addition to conducting reductions in force and servicing the existing workforce, an active outplacement program assists employees who need continuing employment.

A variety of specialized functions are needed to downsize the activity and assist employees with reemployment and transition. Most of these functions will remain operational on-site until April 14, 2001. A few functions will transfer or terminate early, and a few will remain beyond April 14, 2001.

Injury compensation has already been transferred to Hill Air Force Base. Reporting a job injury or work-related illness remains the same as before for employees. But supervisors must co-

ordinate claims with the Benefits Office at Hill Air Force Base.

Employees wishing to update their personnel records for fiscal year 2000 reduction in force must do so by Nov. 12 if they wish to reflect additional experience or education for the fiscal year RIF. Effective Oct. 1, 2000, the Classification Office will cease operations and the classification of positions and SF 172s will no longer be performed. Wage analyses and position control will also be terminated.

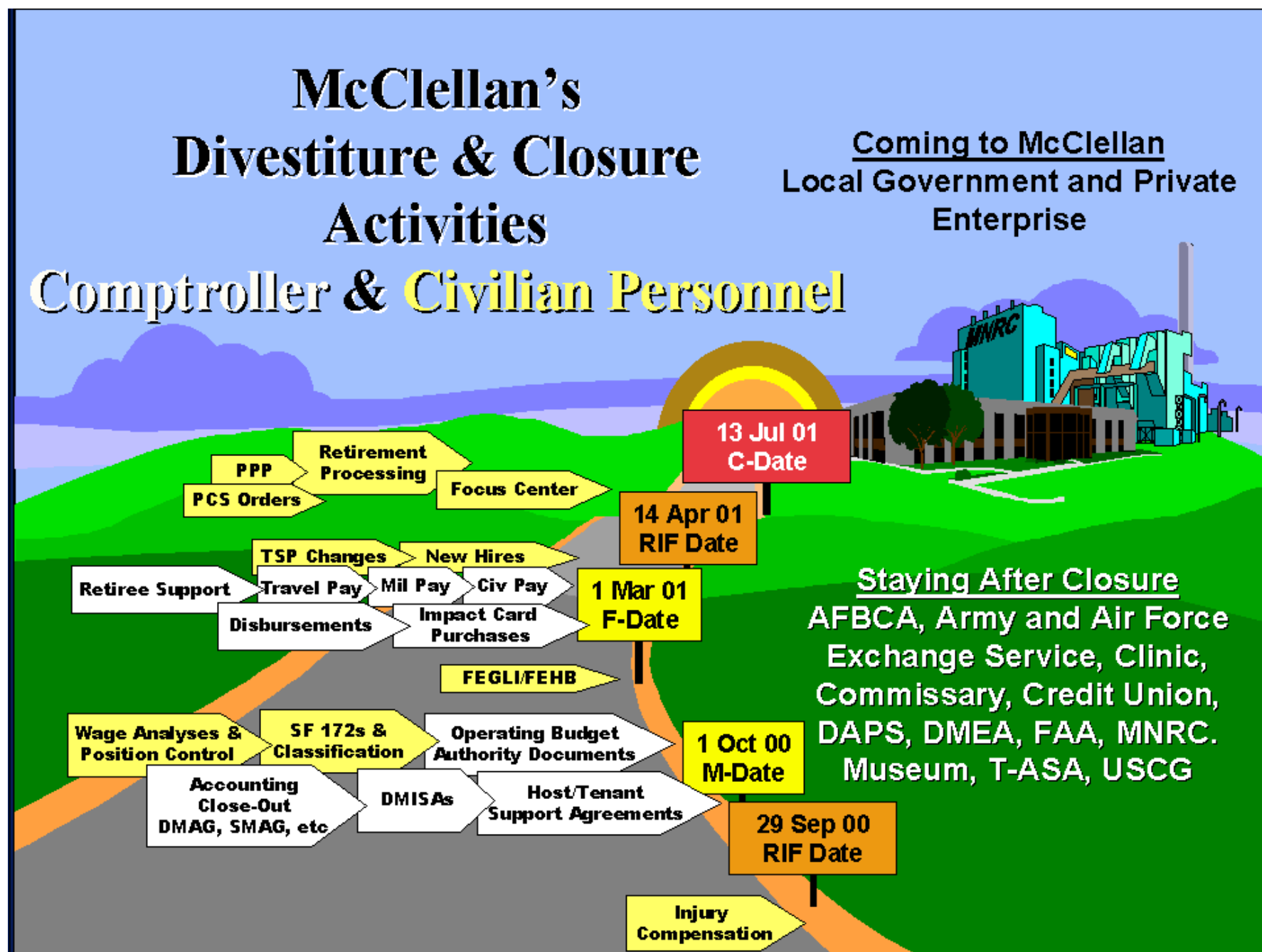
Employees will receive fiscal year RIF notices on March 13, instead of May 24, allowing more time for personal decisions about one's future.

Employees' Federal Group Life Insurance and the Federal Employees' Health Benefits program

administration will cease Jan. 31, 2001. Thrift Savings Plan changes will not be made after March 31, 2001. Employment of applicants from off-base through civil service procedures will terminate March 31, 2001.

The majority of the remaining DPC function will terminate in April 2001. This includes closure of the last remaining FOCUS Center, all employee and relations activities and internal merit promotions. Retirement processing will terminate May 1, 2001.

The Priority Placement Program will transfer to a contractor and remain operational until July 13, 2002 to provide all McClellan Air Force Base registrants ample opportunity for outplacement. (Submitted by Civilian Personnel)



Financial Management Directorate begins closure activities

The Sacramento Air Logistics Center's Comptroller Directorate is responsible for program/budget formulation, management, and execution of the center operations and maintenance, Defense Working Capital Fund, and Base Realignment and Closure multibillion-dollar, multiyear financial programs.

The directorate provides all base financial services, manages automated logistics support systems, and integrates all center business area planning/execution.

Financial Services will be available throughout the transition and closure period at McClellan Air Force Base until base closure.

On March 1, 2001, FM will transfer responsibility concerning **Civilian Pay, Military Pay, Travel Pay, Disbursements and Impact Card** purchases to Ogden Air Logistics Center.

However, all customer service functions will be provided through a Liaison Office, currently in the Financial Services Office in Building 269B, until closure.

The Financial Services Office in Bldg 269B will continue to support all issues or concerns **Retirees** may have through Feb. 28, 2001.

As of March 1, 2001, support will be very limited and the Retirees are encouraged to conduct business at Beale Air Force Base or Travis Air Force Base.

To assist your transition process, the events and activity dates above can be used for closure planning purposes. Future articles will announce the associated customer support representative, office symbol and telephor

number for each event and activity requiring support after the effective end date. (Submitted by Financial Management)

